

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF
BENIN, CAPE VERDE, GAMBIA, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, IVORY
COAST, LIBERIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL,
SIERRA LEONE, TOGO AND UPPER VOLTA

Assistance to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
in Trade Expansion and Economic Integration (RAF/77/032)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval :	February 1979
Starting date of project activities :	March 1978 (Including preparatory assistance)
Planned completion date :	December 1980
To be executed by :	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Government implementation agency :	Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval :	\$520 000
Source of UNDP financing :	Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) came into being in May 1975 with the signing of the Treaty of Lagos by 15 West African States. Cape Verde subsequently joined the Community bringing the membership up to sixteen countries as follows: Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau,

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of \$250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Upper Volta. The Treaty of Lagos covers a broad area of economic co-operation, and established the following institutions: (a) the Authority of Heads of State and Government; (b) the Council of Ministers; and (c) various Technical and Specialized Commissions.

2. The Executive Secretary has been requested to prepare practical proposals for setting up a programme of activities leading to the establishment of a West African Customs Union. The ECOWAS Secretariat has therefore launched three major study projects, for which assistance has been requested from several regional and international agencies, including UNDP. These are: the Trade Study, the General Economic Survey, and the Transport and Telecommunications Study.

3. In co-operation with other agencies such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), UNCTAD has been requested to undertake substantive responsibilities for a number of partial studies.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The major objective of the project is to help ECOWAS fulfil its mandate in relation to the implementation of the Lagos Treaty, with specific emphasis on Trade and Customs matters.

5. Within the Trade Study and the General Economic Survey, the project will complete a study of financial and monetary obstacles to trade expansion, a study of policy options in relation to trade liberalization, a study of short-term possibilities for monetary and financial co-operation, a study of medium-term possibilities for monetary and financial co-operation, a report on fiscal co-operation and a review of integration projects.

III. Inputs

6. On behalf of the ECOWAS Secretariat, the Nigerian Institute for Economic and Social Research (NISER) has over-all responsibility for co-ordination of study projects, and specific responsibility for the General Economic Survey in collaboration with the Centre Ivoirien de Recherche Economique et Sociale (CIRES).

7. Counterpart staff from the ECOWAS Secretariat, short-term consultants and expertise from NISER/CIRES will be made available to work with the senior adviser and the consultants provided under the aegis of UNCTAD. In addition to the services of the senior adviser on trade expansion and economic integration, UNDP will finance consultancies in trade and customs, fiscal and monetary co-operation, economic co-operation, trade promotion and documentation. In consultation with ECOWAS, some of these consultancies will be subcontracted by UNCTAD to nationals of member states wherever feasible. A provision of \$125,500 is set aside for this purpose.